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FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION
GEORGE M JEMISON, DIRECTOR

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DON'T PLANT CLOSE TO UNBARKED LOGS!

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Instructions for planting forest trees usually stress the importance of placing them in spots which will be shaded at least part of the day. The shady sides of logs and stumps often are cited as examples of good planting spots. Observations in the California Douglas-fir type suggest that such spots are not desirable. Three years after logging the bark on cull logs begins to slough off in large patches and smothers seedlings nearby (fig. 1).

The area where bark may fall is a strip close to the log. It varies in width depending upon the diameter of the log, as shown by a few sample measurements:

Log dia. (inches)	Width of strip (feet)
30	4
35	4½
40	5
45	6
50	6½
55	7
60	8
65	8½
70	9

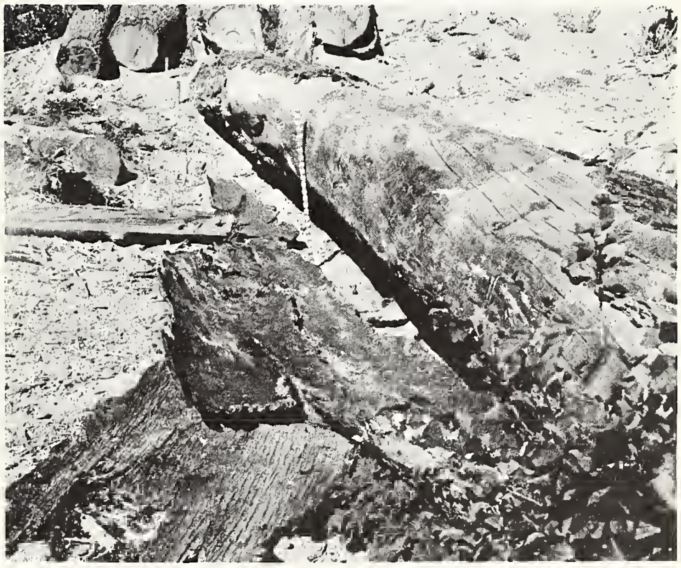

Figure 1.--Douglas-fir cull log showing large patch of bark which sloughed off 3 years after logging.

Seedlings killed by sloughing bark are not numerous enough to cause plantation failure. However, falling bark is one of several causes which decimate planted trees. To enhance planting success, planters must recognize and avoid such danger spots.

The California Forest and Range Experiment Station is maintained at Berkeley in cooperation with the University of California.

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